



: **Cheshunt** :
Urban District Council.

Annual Report

For the Year 1925,

— BY —

JOHN McCLYMONT, M.D.

M.B., C.M., M.O.H.

A. WILLIS, THE CAXTON PRESS, WALTHAM CROSS.

To The Chairman and Members of the Urban
District Council of Cheshunt.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Report for the Year 1925, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, As in the past few years, the Ministry of Health has indicated the outlines, and suggested the points on which information was required The Report of this Year is a "Survey Report," and while including the data of this year, reviews the doings and progress that have taken place in the last five years—a difficult time in regard to the Housing question.

The measure of general progress has been steady and sound.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN McCLYMONT,

M.O.H.

March, 1926.

CHESHUNT, 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

In AREA, Cheshunt is a parish of 8479 acres, situated in the South-East corner of Hertfordshire. The River Lea is on its Eastern boundary. The main road from London to Cambridge runs through its length, and around this and a road running eastward to the adjoining parish of Waltham Abbey in Essex, the greater portion of the Urban area is clustered. This, together with about one-fifth of the land of the parish, is in the Lea Valley, which is a country of rich alluvial land and considerable underground water,—a circumstance which has largely determined the principal industry of the district, and hygienically has the advantages and disadvantages of such physical condition and features. The Western part of the parish is more rural in character and rises to the upland of Cheshunt Common nearly 400 feet above sea level at Goff's Oak, which has a bracing atmosphere. One of new Arterial roads from London to the Cambridge road has been made through the length of the parish, opening up new land, and may possibly have important influences on the future development of the district.

Situated within the Metropolitan Police area and geographically an outer suburb of London, the industrial, social and political life and inclinations of Cheshunt are definitely more those of the agricultural and parent County of Hertford than of London.

POPULATION.

The Census population in 1921 was 13,628 and the Registrar-General now gives the population as 14,260, after allowing for births, deaths and removals. This is an increase of only 10 over that of last year.

Number of inhabited houses	1921	3,054
	1925	3,153
Number of families or separate occupiers	1921	3,188
Rateable value	£64,730	
Sum-represented by a penny rate	£250	

SOCIAL CONDITIONS & OCCUPATIONS.

The topography of the district has largely determined the occupation of the inhabitants and the social conditions existing. The rich alluvial land of the Lea Valley and the plentiful supply of water were found to be of great value for high pressure agriculture under glass, and Cheshunt has become the most prominent centre of this industry in the United Kingdom. This business continues to grow in extent and finds work for a large number of men.

The census report of 1921 gave interesting figures as to the occupation of the inhabitants of which the more important are as follows :—

OCCUPATION	MALES	FEMALES
Agricultural occupation	1797	208
Transport Workers	376	17
Metal Workers	367	23
Domestic Service	105	481
Commercial and Financial Operation	378	167
Clerks, Draughtmen, Typists, &c...	192	156

The number of agricultural or horticultural workers has increased considerably since 1921.

The inhabitants, the greater proportion of which are of the working classes, find their occupation within the parish—in fact seldom leave it; and thus, although in close proximity to populous London suburbs, Cheshunt has a remarkable freedom from epidemic diseases.

The considerable heat in which the greenhouse employees work makes the men thin in the summer time. Otherwise it seems to be a healthy occupation. Tuberculosis is singularly uncommon, and there are no special diseases or illness incidental to the work. It is much healthier than most factory work in towns.

BIRTHS.

223 Children were born in Cheshunt during 1925, and nine outside the parish to Cheshunt parents. Of these 223, four males and four females were illegitimate. This gives a birth rate of only 16.2 as against 18.3 for the whole country. The exceedingly low death rate for many years shows that there is a high proportion (partly by importation) of people in young and middle life in Cheshunt, so that one would expect the birth rate to be above the average instead of below it.

DEATHS.

The death of 85 Cheshunt people within the parish was recorded; and 43, mainly in hospitals or sanatoria, outside it—a total of 128 deaths. This number makes the low net death rate of 8.9 per thousand, and using the 'correcting factor' of .910 a standardised death rate of 8.19 per thousand.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of 11 children under one year of age was registered. This is an infantile mortality rate of 47.4 per thousand births, as against 75 for England and Wales.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Birth Rate ...	22.06	18.3	20.	19.09	16.2
Death Rate (Net)	8.7	10.5	8.7	9.5	8.9
Infantile Death Rate	33.2	59.5	27.5	44.	47.4
CAUSES OF DEATH.				M.	F.
All Causes ...		...		61	67
Whooping Cough ...		...			1
Diphtheria ...		...			1
Influenza ...		...		2	2
Encephalitis lethargica		...			1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system				9	3
Other tuberculous diseases		...		1	
Cancer, malignant disease		...		6	11
Diabetes ...		...		1	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.		...		2	2
Heart disease ...		...		9	13
Arterio-sclerosis ...		...		4	
Bronchitis ...		...		3	6
Pneumonia (all forms)		...		1	4
Other respiratory diseases		...		1	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under two years) ...				2	1
Acute and chronic nephritis		...		6	4
Congenital debility & malformation					
premature birth		...		1	1
Suicide ...		...		1	1
Other deaths from violence		...		4	2
Other defined diseases		...		7	11
Causes ill-defined or unknown		...		1	
Deaths of Infants	} Total	...		4	6
under 1 year.		Illegitimate	...		1
TOTAL BIRTHS ...		...		108	124
Legitimate ...		...		104	120
Illegitimate ...		...		4	4
POPULATION ...		...			14,260

POOR LAW.

From the Relieving Officer I have been received the following notes :—

ORDINARY RELIEF.

Week ending.		Men	Women	Children	Total	Cases
26/12/25.	...	33	89	75	197	100

UNEMPLOYED.

Ditto.	...	35	135	65	135	35
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The above figures in comparison with the Relief for the same period of 1923 shows an increase in ordinary relief (aged, illness, destitute, etc.) but an unemployment relief decrease. For the same period in 1923 there were 105 cases of unemployed men. A scheme has since been started of putting the men to work in return for relief, and this is working very well indeed. The Widows and Pensions Act which came into force in January, 1926, resulted in

Striking off	4 cases	} saving about £20 weekly.
Reducing Relief,	15 „	
In abeyance,	5 „	

CAUSES OF ILLNESS OR INVALIDITY.

Since the great and fatal epidemic of influenza visited us in 1918-1919 no special or serious form of sickness has been present in Chesbunt. For several years the extent of the common zymotic diseases has been below old averages. The considerable epidemic of measles in 1920 seemed to immunize the bulk of the children, and the outbreaks have since been trifling. Old age, as represented by such diseases as Arterio-sclerosis, and degeneration and senile changes in the heart and circulatory system form a large proportion of the causes of death in this district.

General Provision of Health Services.

Hospitals provided or Subsidised by the Local or County Authority.

1. TUBERCULOSIS—

The County Council which controls and works the Tuberculosis Schemes provides Sanatorium Hospital treatment for those cases in which it is necessary or advisable.

2. MATERNITY—

There are no local or county hospitals, but the North Middlesex Hospital under the Edmonton Board of Guardians receives cases recommended by the local medical practitioners or by the Relieving Officer.

3. CHILDREN—

There is no special hospital for children.

4. FEVER—

The Cheshunt District Council provides its own Fever Hospital, situated at Dig Dag Hill within the parish. It has a block for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases. The former is a modern building excellent in every way and can accommodate 16 patients. The Scarlet Fever block is built of corrugated iron, wood lined and has beds for 18 patients. Attached to it is a small observation ward, in which cases of doubtful diagnosis or cerebrospiral fever can be treated.

5. SMALL POX—

The Small Pox Hospital is jointly owned by Cheshunt, Barnet, East Barnet and Barnet Valley districts. It has beds for 6 men and 4 women.

6. OTHER HOSPITALS.—

The Cheshunt Cottage Hospital fulfils the needs of a general Hospital and is a popular institution of great value to the parish. This year a children's ward with 6 beds was added, making 14 beds in all. Seventy-two operations were performed in the hospital and altogether 194 patients treated.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers or illegitimate and homeless children beyond what is supplied at the North Middlesex Hospital by the Guardians.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—

(A) For infectious cases the horse-drawn ambulance is supplied by the District Council. (B) For Non-Infectious and accident cases a Ford ambulance was given to the parish by the British Red Cross Association in January, 1922. Charges are made for its use when possible, and it has been practically self-supporting. During 1925 it was used on 54 occasions.

CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.—

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (consultive only), the Tuberculosis Dispensary and the Dental and Eye clinic in connection with school medical inspection are all held at Greenfield House. There are no Day Nurseries, School Clinics or V. D. Centres.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.—

The Public Health Staff of the Council consists of a part time Medical Officer and a whole time Sanitary Inspector. The latter is an Association of the Royal Sanitary Institute and holds a certificate for meat inspection. He has also been appointed the inspecting officer under the Public Health (Meat) Regulation 1924.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Attendant at the Council's Fever Hospital. The salary of both these officers is paid in the usual proportion by Exchequer grants.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—

(A) GENERAL. In 1919 a Committee acting under the ægis of the Herts County Nursing Association formed a local Nursing Association with a centre and residence for the Nurses at Greenfield House. This, from modest beginnings has grown to become an important factor, and three nurses and a nurse midwife reside and work from this centre. Another nurse midwife resides at Goff's Oak.

The Nursing Association is kept going by weekly subscriptions from patients, by voluntary payments from sympathisers and a grant from the parent Association. This year the nurses attended—

Midwifery cases, without doctor	...	62
„ with „	...	65
General nursing cases		403
Babies under supervision		300

This last work (Infant Health work) has been undertaken this year. During the first year of their life the children are visited and weighed monthly and general instruction on feeding, etc. are given to the mother. Up to the age of five, children are afterwards weighed quarterly, defects such as teething, tonsils, rickets, etc. noted. At the age of five children, pass as they enter school, to the inspection of the School Medical Officer, and later to their doctor under the National Health Insurance Scheme. The chain of State Medical care and help is thus complete.

(B) The Nurses of the County Nursing Association will attend cases of Measles.

The District Council does not assist the Nursing Scheme financially or participate in its regulation or control.

MIDWIFES.—

There are no midwives subsidised or practising within the area.

CHEMICAL WORK.—

Chemical analysis of sewage effluent, and the water of private wells under suspicion, is done by the Counties, Public Health Laboratories at the expense of the District Council. These are submitted as occasion requires.

Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.—

In connection with sanitary administration, the following Acts have been adopted:—

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, adopted April 7th, 1891.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 2, April 1st, 1908 ; Part 3, November 26th, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, Part 2, Sections 15 to 25 and 27 to 33 ; Part 3, Sections 34 to 47 and 49 to 51 ; Part 4, Sections 52 to 58, 60, 62 to 65 and 67 ; Part 6, the whole ; Part 10, Sections 93 and 95, in force May 18th, 1911 ; Part 7, Section 81 ; Part 8, the whole, in force April 28th, 1910.

Notification of Births Act, 1901, adopted by County Council, in force June 1st, 1911.

Maternity and Child Welfare Act.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.—

The water supply of Cheshunt is derived from two main sources—an artesian well in the North-West corner of the parish, and water purchased from the Metropolitan Water Board. The Council's well supplies nearly two-thirds of the water required, and the Metropolitan Water Board the remaining third.

The water from the artesian well is pumped to a reservoir a few hundred yards away from the water works. This is at the highest point of the parish and largely supplies the northern and western districts by gravitation. The portion from the Metropolitan Water Board comes from a well near the River Lea. The water is then aerated and pumped up to High Beech whence it chiefly supplies the Southern and Eastern portions of Cheshunt. Although many nurserymen have sunk their own wells an increasing amount of water is being taken by this industry, and this at times causes difficulties in maintaining pressure and has seriously raised the question of sufficiency of the supply. A special committee was formed to consider the whole subject, and particularly if an extra supply of water could be obtained within the parish. The decision of the committee is awaited. The difficulty of maintaining pressure at the Turnford end of the district has now been overcome.

There are a few wells in the rural districts giving domestic supplies. The water of several has recently been found of doubtful purity. When possible owners are being induced to connect up with the District supply. If too far away from a water main other suitable action has been taken,

The supply of towns' water is constant and is in nearly every case direct into the house—not by a common standpipe.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—

The Canalized River Lea forms the Eastern boundary of the parish. A few small streams flow down from the heights of Goff's Oak and Cheshunt and eventually reach the river. Contamination by gypsies, or in a few instances from cottages adjoining the brooks, is closely supervised by the Sanitary Inspector. The Lea Conservancy Board are very alert to prevent any contamination of the River Lea.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—

Except a few outlying country houses, which have their own cesspools, the houses are all connected to the public sewer. This ends at the Sewage Farm on the Waltham Marsh. There are the usual septic tanks, bacteria beds and soil areas for irrigation. The Reports of the Analysis of the Sewage effluent are of a very satisfactory character.

The Surface Water drainage also goes by separate sewers to the Sewage Farm.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—

All houses near the sewers having water closets or lavatories are connected thereto. Some outlying large houses have cesspools which are emptied generally by private arrangement with farmers. A few small cottages have earth closets and the sewage is disposed of in the garden or adjoining field.

No. of water closets with flushing cisterns	2974
„ „ hand flushed ...	115
Earth closets	20
Pail closets	30
Privies with fixed receptables... ..	20

	3159

SCAVENGING.—

Once a week during the summer months, and once a fortnight in the winter, the house refuse is collected in a motor dust cart and removed to a 'shoot' at Cheshunt Brickfields. From the outlying Goff's Oak district the house refuse is removed once in two months.

The occupiers are responsible for the cleansing of the few earth closets or privies.



**Summary of Work done through the Sanitary
Inspector during the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1925.**

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—

	Number for year	Results of Inspec- tions.
Complaints received ...	23	Notices served when required.
Nuisances detected without complaints ...	70	The necessary notices sent.
Nuisances abated ...	82	
Notices served, statutory	20	
„ „ informed	57	
Summonses taken out ...	Nil	
Cottages inspected ...	321	
Slaughter-houses inspected	231	Bye-laws generally complied with.
Bakehouses inspected ...	23	
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops inspected ...	41	
Workshops inspected ...	26	
Houses disinfected ...	27	With Formalin.
Overcrowding abated ...	3	
Houses placed in habitable repair ...	21	
Houses closed...	2	
Privies, W.C.'s repaired ; W.C.'s supplied with water	27	
Animals improperly kept, removed ...	2	
Samples of water taken for analysis ...	4	
Seizure of unsound meat,etc.	Nil	Eight boxes of fish surrendered and con- demned as unfit for human food.
New Dust Bins provided	37	To replace defective ones.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Number of	
		Written Notices (3)	Prose- cutions (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	13	2	Nil
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	17	1	„
Workplaces (Other than Out- workers' premises) ...	9	1	„
Total ...	39	4	—

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Number of Defects

Particulars (1)	Referred to H.M. Inspector			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	(4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1		
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding ...				
Want of drainage of Floors				
Other Nuisances ...	1	1		
Sanitary } insufficient				
accommo- } unsuitable or				
dation } defective	2	2		
<i>Offences under the Factory & Workshops Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to out- work and offences under the Secs. mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order. 1921)				
Total	4	4		

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 & 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Act.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—

There has been no nuisance from Smoke this year, and no need for action.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws.

Only one action has been necessary—this is a case of a caravan, the occupier being made to get a proper water supply and privy accomodation.

SCHOOLS.—

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. All receive the town supply of water, and all except Goff's Oak and Turnford are connected to the general sewage system of the parish.

Housing.

I. General Housing conditions in the Area.

All but about 600 of the houses of the parish are working class dwellings on weekly rentals. These houses seem to belong to three periods of development or growth of Cheshunt. An old group of houses, a century or more old, built of brick, timber, or timber and brick combined, represent a still sound homestead, though not always conforming to modern hygienic ideas. A second period of working class house building is to be seen in Waltham New Town, much of the Eleanor Estate and with less frequent examples in Cheshunt. The brick, wood and fittings are of exceedingly poor quality and many of the houses have a rather diplorable and deteriorated aspect.

The third group built within the present century are of good quality and pleasant working class dwellings.

1 (a) **Extent of shortage or excess of houses.**

After the very complete survey of houses and the number of families occupying them in 1919—a time when, owing to food regulations and rationing cards being in force, a very correct estimate could be made—257 houses were considered to be necessary. By the end of this year 156 had been built—90 being erected by the District Council. With an increase of roughly 600 in the population since 1921 a very large building programme—by public or private enterprise seems to be necessary. There is indeed a call for something approaching 200 working class houses.

The need was specially great at Goffs Oak and in October I drew up a special report of the conditions in that district, which is appended.

GOFFS OAK REPORT.—

The supply of houses at Goffs Oak, the condition of the present working class houses and the question of overcrowding has occupied my attention for some considerable time. Mr. Sykes, your Sanitary Inspector, and myself have recently made a thorough inspection of the district. By Goffs Oak, I mean the district containing Appleby Street, Hammond Street, Burton Lane, Lucas Lane, St. James' Road, Goff's Lane west of Burton Lane, Newgate Street Road and St. Jones' Road. To summarise, in these roads there are 205 houses, of which 10 are not reasonably fit for human habitation. There are in addition three families living in one room. If one were to apply the tenets of

the pamphlet issued by the Ministry of Health, as to what is necessary for a house to be reasonably fit, a very much larger number of the working class dwellings in this district would have to be condemned. The poor construction, the lack of repairs and paint in very many of the houses in the main road—Goff's Lane—is noticeable. Seven houses in St. Jones' Road, six in St. James' and six in Lucas Lane are not supplied by Council's water. The Nursery Industry is greatly increasing in this part of the parish. There is no accommodation for many of the employees near their work now, and none at all for the future workmen needed. I found many people in comfortable financial position having, in order to be near their work, to live in poor and small cottages. I would like to interest the Council in the valuable site, from a hygienic standpoint, they have at Goff's Oak, the most bracing part of the parish. In other words, from the health standpoint, Goff's Oak is the best part of the parish in which to encourage the building of houses. The working class population of this district have been accustomed to a low rent, their social requirements are less, and their financial position poorer than in the Urban districts of Cheshunt and Waltham Cross. But there are many people who could afford better houses, at higher present day rentals, and a levelling up process would relieve the housing scarcity.

**(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet
any shortage :—**

Year	Houses built by Council	By private persons
1920		2
1921	48	8
1922		1
1923	36	11
1924		25
1925	6	19
	—	—
	90	66

The building on Paul's site by the Council continues, and 54 houses are in process of construction at the end of 1925. It is expected they will be ready for occupation by August, 1926.

Enquiries are being made as to a site for building at Goff's Oak and it is contemplated that a number up to 24 houses may be built.

**2 Information as to any important changes in the
population.**

There has been no great change in population. The imported munition workers gradually withdraw and after the great reduction of staff in the Gunpowder Factory and Small Arms Factory the discharged men had largely to find work elsewhere. But the Nursery industry has considerably extended and more men are being employed therein. The birth rate has considerably exceeded the death rate, so that the population has steadily increased.

II. Overcrowding.

1. EXTENT.—

Without a complete and lengthy survey of the whole parish the exact amount is difficult to state. But there is reason to believe that it exists in about 60 or 70 cases.

When Tuberculosis complicates the overcrowding (which has been the case in some of the poorest people), the condition is very deplorable.

2. CAUSES.—

The number of houses required in 1920 has not yet been built. The marriage rate has still kept high and more houses are needed to accommodate the young couples, many of whom have to live in the house of one or the other parents.

3. MEASURES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED FOR DEALING WITH OVERCROWDING.

Overcrowding is unfortunately most common in the poorest families, and, so far, owing to the shortage of houses has been difficult to deal with. Each case has been treated on its individual merits. In cases of Tuberculosis special efforts have been made to find the people a house or get the patient removed to a sanatorium. The Council's building scheme is gradually relieving the difficulties. In previous paragraphs it has been shown between 70 and 80 houses are contemplated or in actual process of building.

4. There have been no special causes of overcrowding during 1925—only a continuance of the trouble.

III. Fitness of houses.

1. (a) GENERAL STANDARD OF HOUSING.—

When compared with other industrial areas this is undoubtedly good. There are a certain number of houses which, when there is sufficient accommodation, will probably be more rigorously dealt with.

(b) GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS.—

In the rural districts old age and general dilapidation are the outstanding defects. Dampness, defective gutters, and broken woodwork are the most frequent troubles in the other faulty houses of the parish—those of the second period of building referred to in a previous paragraph.

(c) These defects are usually due to the lack of proper management by the owners. A limited few owners are the chief culprits in this respect.

2. General action taken as regards unfit houses under—

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| A. The Public | } | see paragraph b, Housing statistics. |
| Health Acts | | |
| B. The Housing | | |
| Acts | | |

3. The chief difficulty to contend with in remedying serious unfitness is the shortage of houses. In minor cases either by a caution to the tenants or by arrangement with the owners, defects have in all cases been made good. There are no back-to-back houses.

IV. UNHEALTHY AREAS.—

There are no so called unhealthy areas in this parish.

V. BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, AND TO TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, &c.

1. The existing bye-laws are satisfactory and
2. There does not seem any need for new bye-laws or provision of those existing.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)).

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :

(i) By the Local Authority	6
(ii) By other bodies or persons	12

1. *Unfit dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 321

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 53

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 16

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	12
2. <i>Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	11
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers.</i>	
A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 15 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |
| | (a) By owners | 9 |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | — |

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | 3 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 2 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | 1 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | — |
| (5) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 2 |

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—

Most of the Milk consumed is produced within the parish or its vicinity. It is generally of good character.

Under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922, one application for registration to sell milk has been refused. No purveyor has been struck off the list. Under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders a complete register is kept by the Sanitary Inspector of both wholesale and retail dairymen. The dairies and shops are regularly visited (41 inspections) by the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health.

I. ACTION TAKEN AS TO TUBERCULOSIS MILK AND CATTLE.

There has been no necessity for any action.

II. NUMBER OF LICENCES GRANTED FOR THE SALE OF MILK UNDER SPECIAL DESIGNATION ORDER, 1923.

No applications have been made for licences by either producer or salesmen.

III. REFUSAL OR REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION OF RETAILERS OR OFF-LICENCES.

One application for registration was refused as the premises were unsuitable and the cattle suspiciously poor in health.

IV. No bacteriological examination of milk has appeared necessary or been made.

(b) MEAT.—

I. The Sanitary Inspector makes frequent visits to the slaughter houses to inspect carcasses, under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924. No meat is marked. There has been no meat condemned. If it were, it would be incinerated at the Sewage Farm.

II. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
(MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924.

There are no stalls selling meat, and only one travelling vehicle, which is properly equipped. The shops and stores are visited, and as far as possible there is an insistence to comply with the Regulations.

III. There is no public slaughter house.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	In 1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
Registered	4	4	4
Licensed	2	3	3
	—	—	—
Total	6	7	7

(c) OTHER FOODS.—

Bakehouses are visited regularly. No foods are manufactured in the district. The small quantity of unsound food surrendered—none has been condemned—is stated in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

(d) There has been no case of food poisoning in the area.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Since the fatal epidemic of Influenza in 1918, no serious or grave outbreak of Epidemic Fever is to be recorded. An Epidemic of Scarlet Fever occurred in 1920 when 40 cases were reported, and in the same year a widespread outbreak of Measles swept over the parish. The schools except Waltham New Town were that year all closed, and various schools have been closed almost every year—except this year, 1925.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES.—

Although sporadic cases to the number of 53 were notified, there was never any thing this year to designate an Epidemic. This I consider to be due to the immunizing effect of the 1920 and other outbreaks. The Schools were not closed this year, but leaflets of instructions to parents were prepared and issued from the Schools in which cases were notified.

During the period under review, namely in 1920, there was one return of Scarlet Fever. Five cases of Encephalitis Lethargica with four fatal results were reported last year, and gave cause for anxiety. During the Influenza Epidemic, notifications of cases of Pneumonia was of interest and value to the Sanitary Authorities, but now it seems to be of less importance.

No cases of Malaria or Trench Fever have been reported and only one, a recurrent case, of Dysentery.

The number of cases of Diphtheria has been laudably few during the last few years. I had been inclined to blame surface water gulleys as the source of many of the cases and in times of drought these are frequently flushed with disinfectants; and the old kind of Summer and Autumn cases has not cropped up. There have been four cases in the Northern portion of the High Street during December (and six more in January, 1926) for which no clue of origin can be discovered, although swabs have been taken from possible "carriers."

The practice of examining "swabs" and blood cultaris on behalf of the local practitioners is much increasing. It not only establishes accuracy of diagnosis, but frequently saves expense to the Parish.

When possible, "Contacts" with Diphtheria are given a prophylactic injection of Antitoxin. The very few "Carrier" cases are taken into the Isolation Hospital and treated by Antitoxin and local disinfectants until swabs prove negative.

The Schiek test for Diphtheria or the Dick test for Scarlet Fever has not been used.

No primary Vaccinations, or re-vaccinations have been made by the Medical Officer of Health. At several periods when Small Pox was in London, Chicken-pox has been by the U. D. Council made a notifiable disease. And at other times several general practitioners have notified the occurrence of cases for the benefit of the Medical Officer of Health. The school masters are particularly instructed to report Chicken-pox, and, if no doctor is in attendance I pay a visit for diagnostic purposes to the child.

The serum for immunizing against Influenza never had any popularity, but for catarrh and colds serum prophylactic treatment has an increasing vogue.

Antitoxin sera for Diphtheria, Anthrax, etc. are supplied by the District Council through the Medical Officer of Health.

After the patient has been removed in cases of the zymotic diseases or tuberculosis the rooms are disinfected by formalin, and clothing infected by disease or vermin are when necessary treated at the Isolation Hospital. The Enfield District Council have kindly disinfected mattresses on payment.



Vaccination Statistics.

	Year 1924	Year 1925
Births registered, January to December	<u>257</u>	<u>223</u>
Number of these children on 31st January, 1926, registered as:—		
Vaccinated 	110	100
Insusceptible 	—	—
Had Small Pox 	—	—
Exempted by Statutory Declaration	128	87
Dead 	7	6
Unvaccinated (including Removals and postponements) ...	<u>12</u>	<u>30</u>
	<u>257</u>	<u>223</u>
Total number of Certificates of Successful Primary Vaccinations at all ages received during the years 1924 & 1925	<u>96</u>	<u>159</u>
Total number of Statutory Declarations of Conscientious Objections actually received by the Vaccination Officer during the years 1924 and 1925 ...	<u>122</u>	<u>98</u>

CHARLES W. COOK,

Vaccination Officer.

Notifiable Diseases during 1925.

Diseases	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Death
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	5	5	0
Diphtheria	6	6	1
Enteric (& Paratyphoid)	2	1	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0
Pneumonia	12	0	5
Measles (and German measles)	53	0	0
Erysipelas	4	0	0
Dysentery	1	—	—
Encephalitis, etc.	0	0	1
Malaria Trench Fever etc.	0	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	—	—

The diseases in both cases of Paratyphoid was contracted outside the parish—one from shell fish. Of the Diphtheria cases one was a “carrier” ; and the fatal cases was laryngeal diphtheria, the patient dying almost immediately on admission to Hospital.

One Cheshunt child, aged 2 years, developed Encephalitis Lethargica while in a London Hospital, and died there from that disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Nonpulmonary		Pulmonary		Nonpulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1						1		
5				1				
10	1	2						
15	1	1			1	1	1	
20		2			2			
25	1	2						
35	1	1			2			
45	3	1			4			
55	1							
65 & upwards	1							
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	10		1	9	1	1	

It will be noticed from the above table that 18 out of 19 cases of Tuberculosis notified were of the lung. Except one case all the sufferers were of the working classes. But only two—one aged 60—were nursery hands.

Of the deaths from Tuberculosis three were not notified as suffering from this disease during their lifetime. One was however a temporary resident, the second a caravan dweller and the third a new arrival.

The notifications are promptly made (usually after bacteriological confirmation) by the general practitioners.

At the beginning of the year there were 28 persons in Cheshunt suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 from Non-pulmonary. On December 31st after deducting deaths and removals and adding new cases there were 29 Pulmonary and 4 Non-pulmonary cases.

The Registrar General's report gives two more deaths from Tuberculosis than the local register shows. Accepting this figure of 13 deaths the Tuberculosis death rate is .9 per thousand persons living.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1925.

No case of Tuberculosis has been reported in an employee in the Milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, SECTION 62.

This is an important New Act.

Under this section the Council can apply for an order for the compulsory removal to Hospital of a Tuberculosis patient. No action has been necessary during 1925 under this Section.

The Scheme for the control of treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases is under the management of the Herts County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

(a) This part of Public Health Work is also under the control of the County Council. Their Medical Officer, Dr. Swatman has kindly given me a few notes which may usefully be added to my Report.

	1920	1925
No of times the Centre was open	45	48
No of expectant Mothers on books	19	31
No. of children under 5 years old on books	437	300
No. of attendances of children	4,090	3,210
No. of deaths of children who attended	1	2
Average No. of attendances each season	90.8	66
Average No. of attendances made by each child	9	10.7

The increase in the attendance of expectant mothers is satisfactory. The fall in the number of attendances in children is very largely due to the fact that after 1920 a Medical Certificate had to accompany an application for Milk.

(b) There was only one case of Puerperal Fever; and Infectious Diseases amongst parturient women or young children, being so rare do not call for my special scheme or attention.

Epidemic Diarrhœa—once a common and most serious Disease amongst children—is now quite rare, due to intelligent handling and preparation of milk and other foods by Mothers.

This improvement is due to the instructions given at the Welfare Centre—and also to some degree to the tarring of the roads.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neanatorum or poliomyelitis reported.

Schools.

The health of the School Children during 1925 was good. Cases of Measles were dotted over the parish affecting most of the Schools for many months, but never developed into an Epidemic. A leaflet for the guidance of parents was distributed but no School was closed.

In the routine Medical Examination 707 children were examined and 133 defects—nearly all of a minor character were discovered. 97 of the defects when drawn to the notice of the parents, were treated. Permanently enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids are still neglected. This is to be regretted as this condition leads to constant Catarrhs and no doubt prepares the way for serious Tubercular affections later on.

The defects in the Building and Sanitary arrangements at Goff's Oak School have been very satisfactorily remedied.



